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Sustainability at Washington Corrections Center for Women

Operations

- **Local Produce:** The Horticulture Program created multiple organic gardens across the facility that supplement the offenders' diets and teach them how to grow organic vegetables.
- **Food Composting:** Coordinating the approval for the in vessel composting unit that was approved for McNeil Island.
- **Horticulture Program:** The program teaches offenders about landscaping, plant care, and sustainable gardening practices. The program also sells floral arrangements for weddings and community events and sells plants at local farmers markets. It also creates jobs for offenders and provides them with job skills necessary to work at a nursery. Offenders who successfully complete the program are certified through a local community college. The facility has an on-site 2,000-square-foot greenhouse.
- **Prison Pet Partnership Program:** Since 1981 the [Prison Pet Partnership Program](#) has provided valuable job skills to offenders, saved the lives of more than 1,000 dogs and trained hundreds of service animals for people in the community. Several offenders who participated in the program have been hired as professional groomers after they completed their prison sentence. About one out of every 20 dogs is trained to assist people with seizures and provide therapy. The other dogs are trained how to be obedient pets that can be adopted by people in the community rather than being euthanized.
- **Medical Equipment:** The prison sends durable medical equipment like wheelchairs and gurneys to Monroe Correctional Complex where offenders are trained to repair them instead of sending them to landfills.
- **Community Gardens:** Offender work crews who conduct grounds maintenance, light repairs, and plant and harvest at local organic farms which in turn donate produce to local food banks.

Facilities

- **Medical Clinic:** The new medical clinic is a LEED-certified building. LEED-certified buildings require less water and electricity to operate, use more natural light, and require fewer toxic materials to build.

More Information

Visit the Department of Corrections' [sustainability website](#) for statewide information.